CLAIMS

Claim 1. In a fruit harvester including a picking head for stripping fruit supported on a mobile chassis moveable in a travel direction including an axial endless conveyor means powered by a main drive power pulley, having a berry receiving end and a berry depositing end, the improvement comprising an picking accessory comprising a conveyor in combination with a accessory bin wherein the conveyor is mounted on said harvester for receiving fruit from the axial conveyor of the berry harvester and thereafter conveying the fruit for loading in the accessory bin.

Claim 2. The fruit harvester of claim 1 wherein the conveyor is arrayed as a transverse conveyor positioned transversely in orthogonal relationship to the axial conveyor of the berry harvester and is moveable between a right hand pick position and a left hand pick position to the picking head during picking of fruit.

Claim 3. The fruit harvester of claim 2 wherein the transverse conveyor has an inboard end attached to the fruit harvester and an outboard end cantilevered over the associated accessory bin, comprising a self powered accessory bin.

Claim 4. The fruit harvester of claim 3 wherein the transverse conveyor comprises;
a) a frame having a right angle drive means at one end and a discharge sprocket at the other;
b) a cantilever attachment means for connecting the transverse conveyor to the fruit harvester in a cantilever mode; and
c) an endless belt supported between the right angle drive means and the discharge sprocket, said endless belt having transverse flight members for carrying berry portions comprising cranberries. wherein the right angle drive means is connected by a belt to a main drive power pulley of the fruit harvester.

Claim 5. The fruit harvester of claim 1 wherein the self propelled collection bin is operated in tandem in association with the rear of the fruit harvester chassis positioned to receive the

berries from an outboard end of the transverse conveyor, being arrayed just below the outboard sprocket as close as possible, without actual contact operation.

Claim 6. The fruit harvester of claim 5 wherein this distance is preferably about 32 inches at the highest point of the end roller during operation.

Claim 7. The fruit harvester of claim 1 wherein the transverse conveyor is powered by the fruit harvester power pulley which can be mounted in either the right hand or left hand position to accommodate changes in travel direction.

Claim 8. The fruit harvester of claim 1 wherein flight members of the transverse conveyor are conveniently fixedly attached to the endless belt means for controlling movement of berries comprising rigid molded plastic segments, each of which are may be rotatably interconnected by pins attached, said belt means mounted on the right angle drive means.

Claim 9. A method of "dry picking" cranberries in combination with packing the fruit in situ in shipping containers comprising the steps of;

providing cranberry vines in a dry condition where grown in a cranberry "bog";

stripping fruit from cranberries vines by operation of a picking head of a fruit harvester wherein fruit is carried successively by a main conveyor, then by an accessory conveyor to provide for loading the stripped fruit comprising cranberries directly into an associated shipping bin said bin is then mechanically delivered off the bog where third it is put on a truck for delivery,

Claim 10. The method of claim 9 fruit being picked and delivered using the accessory bin is of higher quality due to less bruising due to firstly by eliminating handling steps there is less damage to the fruit, secondly the fruit being picked is delivered evenly and with no excess force to the bin and finally the bags of fruit are heavy (approx. 50 lbs), by eliminating human handling, stacking and emptying of the bags less bruising is incurred.